Determining the Cost of Performing Each Service

The cost of service methodology developed by US&FCS was designed to bring the organization closer to full cost recovery guidance set forth in OMB Circular A–25. To set prices that are “self sustaining,” the US&FCS had to determine the true cost of providing various trade promotion services. Federal Accounting Standards permit US&FCS to use an activity-based costing model to determine the true cost of services listed in the proposed User Fee Schedule. The activities were defined in accordance with the US&FCS list of eleven (11) services offered by US&FCS, including both standard (6) and customized (5) services.

As part of the cost of service study, the US&FCS conducted a workload survey to obtain a more accurate estimate of the true cost for delivery of specific services. The workload survey was designed and distributed to all US&FCS international and domestic field units. An operational audit technique was used for this workload survey. The operational data is based on level of effort exerted by a cross-section of staff members who are subject matter experts and practitioners. The independent contractor commissioned for the cost of service study reviewed the workflow process for delivery of standard and customized services, breaking out the discrete steps of each activity to obtain the estimated time to complete each step, then combined the step workload to determine the total workload estimate per service. The data submitted by various US&FCS field units was then aggregated to determine the global average of workload for each standard or customized service.

The proposed global average hourly rate of $55.33 was based on actual staffing data and payroll for staff specifically engaged in the delivery of trade promotion services, rather than data aggregated from US&FCS staff as a whole. This resulted in a weighted average hourly rate that did not include overhead, benefits and other burdening factors. (These burdening factors were later added to produce the burdened hourly rate of $55.33.) Using FY2010 ITA budget data, fringe benefits and non-labor related costs (e.g. materials, supplies, rent, utilities, equipment) were prorated to determine the burdening rate that was to be added to the hourly rate. This resulted in an hourly rate that accounts for all applicable labor and non-labor costs specifically related to the delivery of services, which is consistent with federal accounting standards.

Conclusion

Based on the information provided above, the US&FCS believes its proposed fees are consistent with the objective of OMB Circular A–25 to “promote efficient allocation of the nation’s resources by establishing charges for special benefits provided to the recipient that are at least as great as the cost to the U.S. Government of providing the special benefits * * * ” OMB Circular A–25(5)(b).


Pricing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Standard service</th>
<th>Average service delivery hours</th>
<th>Proposed fee for average workload</th>
<th>Current fee schedule</th>
<th>Dollar change in pricing</th>
<th>Percentage change in pricing</th>
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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XC051

Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Commercial Atlantic Region Non-Sandbar Large Coastal Shark Fishery Opening Date

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice; fishery opening date.

SUMMARY: NMFS is announcing the opening date of the commercial Atlantic region non-sandbar large coastal shark fishery. This action is necessary to inform fishermen and dealers about the fishery opening date.

DATES: The commercial Atlantic region non-sandbar large coastal shark fishery will open on July 15, 2012.


SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Atlantic shark fisheries are managed under the 2006 Consolidated Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Fishery Management Plan (FMP), its amendments, and its implementing regulations found at 50 CFR part 635 issued under authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.).

On January 24, 2012 (77 FR 3393), the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) published a final rule that established quota levels and opening dates for the 2012 Atlantic commercial shark fisheries. In the final rule, we stated that the 2012 Atlantic non-sandbar large coastal shark (LCS) fishery would open on either the effective date of the final rule implementing the Atlantic HMS electronic dealer...
reporting system (76 FR 37750; June 28, 2011) or July 15, 2012, whichever occurs first. We are still working on integrating the Atlantic HMS electronic dealer reporting system with other existing and new electronic programs in the Northeast and Southeast regions. Once the electronic dealer system is available, we will conduct training workshops and webinars to introduce and train dealers how to use the new system before implementation. Thus, we do not expect the system to be in place before July 15, and will open the commercial Atlantic region non-sandbar LCS fishery on July 15, 2012.

All of the shark fisheries will remain open until December 31, 2012, unless we determine that the fishing season landings have reached, or are projected to reach, 80 percent of the available quota. At that time, consistent with § 635.27(b)(1), we will file for publication with the Office of the Federal Register a closure action for that shark species group and/or region that will be effective no fewer than 5 days from the date of filing. From the effective date and time of the closure until we announce, via a Federal Register action that additional quota, if any, is available, the fishery for the shark species group and, for non-sandbar LCS region, will remain closed, even across fishing years, consistent with § 635.28(b)(2).

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.

Dated: June 8, 2012.

Carrie D. Selberg,
Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 2012–14458 Filed 6–12–12; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 3510–22–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
RIN 0648–X897

Fisheries of the South Atlantic; Southeast Data, Assessment, and Review (SEDAR); Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic Spanish Mackerel (Scomberomorus maculatus) and Cobia (Rachycentron canadum)

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Four Assessment Workshops via webinars are being added to SEDAR 28. The webinars will be held July 10, 2012, July 24, 2012, August 9, 2012, and August 30, 2012. All webinars will begin at 1 p.m. (Eastern) and are expected to last four hours. The SEDAR 28 Review Workshop was originally scheduled for August 6–10, 2012 and will now be held October 29–November 2, 2012. This is the twenty-eighth SEDAR. See SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION.


ADDRESSES: The SEDAR 28 Review Workshop will be held at the DoubleTree Atlanta-Buckhead, 3342 Peachtree Rd., Atlanta, GA 30326, telephone: (404) 231–1234. The Assessment Workshop webinars will be held via online webinar. The webinars and Review workshop are open to members of the public. Those interested in participating in the webinars should contact Kari Fenske and Ryan Rindone at SEDAR (see FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT) to request an invitation providing webinar access information.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kari Fenske, SEDAR Coordinator, 4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201, North Charleston, SC 29405; telephone: (843) 571–4366; email: kari.fenske@safmc.net; or Ryan Rindone, SEDAR Coordinator, 4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201, North Charleston, SC 29405; telephone: (704) 564–2046; email: ryan.rindone@gulfcouncil.org.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The original notice for the SEDAR 28 Review Workshop was published in the Federal Register on December 28, 2011 (76 FR 81479). This notice changes the date of that workshop and adds additional workshops for SEDAR 28.

The Gulf of Mexico, South Atlantic, and Caribbean Fishery Management Councils, in conjunction with NOAA Fisheries and the Atlantic and Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commissions have implemented the Southeast Data, Assessment and Review (SEDAR) process, a multi-step method for determining the status of fish stocks in the Southeast Region. SEDAR includes three workshops: (1) Data Workshop, (2) Stock Assessment Workshop and (3) Review Workshop. The product of the Data Workshop is a data report which compiles and evaluates potential datasets and recommends which datasets are appropriate for assessment analyses. The product of the Stock Assessment Workshop is a stock assessment report which describes the fisheries, evaluates the status of the stock, estimates biological benchmarks, projects future population conditions, and recommends research and monitoring needs. The assessment is independently peer reviewed at the Review Workshop. The product of the Review Workshop is a Consensus Summary documenting Panel opinions regarding the strengths and weaknesses of the stock assessment and input data. Panelists for SEDAR Workshops are appointed by the Gulf of Mexico, South Atlantic, and Caribbean Fishery Management Councils and NOAA Fisheries Southeast Regional Office and Southeast Fisheries Science Center.

SEDAR participants include data collectors and database managers; stock assessment scientists, biologists, and researchers; constituency representatives including fishermen, environmentalists, and NGO’s; International experts; and staff of Councils, Commissions, and state and federal agencies.

SEDAR 28 Assessment Workshops via Webinar Schedule (all times Eastern):

July 10, 2012: 1 p.m.–5 p.m.; July 24, 2012: 1 p.m.–5 p.m.; August 9, 2012: 1 p.m.–5 p.m.; August 30, 2012: 1 p.m.–5 p.m.

The established time may be adjusted as necessary to accommodate the timely completion of discussion relevant to the data workshop process. Such adjustments may result in the meeting being extended from, or completed prior to the time established by this notice.

Revised SEDAR 28 Review Workshop Schedule:

October 29–November 2, 2012; SEDAR 28 Review Workshop

October 29, 2012: 1 p.m.–8 p.m.;
October 30, 2012: 8 a.m.–8 p.m.
October 31, 2012: 8 a.m.–8 p.m.;
November 1, 2012: 8 a.m.–8 p.m.;
November 2, 2012: 8 a.m.–1 p.m.

The Review Workshop is an independent peer review of the assessment developed during the Data and Assessment Workshops. Workshop Panelists will review the assessment and document their comments and recommendations in a Consensus Summary.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before these groups for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during these meetings. Action will be restricted to those issues specifically listed in this notice and any issues arising after publication of this notice that require emergency action under section 305(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, provided the public...